MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS
MARVEL COMICS
156
EARLY JUNE
$1.75 US
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VENGEANCE THE DESTROYER
SHANG CHI NEW WARRIORS
MACNEIL '94

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS

RICHARD ASHFORD EDITOR
MICHAEL KRAIGER ASSISTANT EDITOR
RALPH MACCHIO GROUP EDITOR
TOM DEFALCO EDITOR IN CHIEF

COVER BY COLIN MACNEIL

KYMAERA

NEW WARRIORS SOLO
PART 2 OF 4
"BABY TALK"

WRITER .....ED LAZELLARI
PENCILS .....ED LAZELLARI
INKS .....JOE ROSAS
LETTERS .....ED LAZELLARI
COLORS.....ED LAZELLARI

You may call her Mother Matrix, but Kymaera of the New Warriors calls her trouble as she finds herself in the clutches of a villainess with a twisted idea of motherhood.

DER ZERSTÖRER

"ENIS NACHT"

AUTOR .....HERR DAN SLOTT
VORZZEICHNER .....HERR JAMES FRY
TUSCHER .....HERR MARK BADGER
BESCHRIFTUNG .....HERR UL HIGGINS
FARBGEBUNG .FRAU MARIANNE LIGHTLE
HILFE MIT DER UBERSETZUNG ...HERR JON BABCOCK

Out of all the chaos and destruction of the Second World War comes a mighty avenging figure! A man who has sworn never to rest until he has destroyed the Nazi hordes...Der Zerstörer!

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MARVEL READERS PRESENT

387 Park Avenue South New York, NY 10016

Dear Marvel Comics Presents,

Thank you again for printing MCP. Your comic is great! Every issue deserves more praise than the last. All I can say is 3 claws, A+, 4 chain links, and Make Mine MCP!

Evan Robarge
1895 Greenfield Drive
Ossineke, MI
49766

Well, we said we didn't want to use the grade-type rating anymore but we just had to print one so full of praise. Thank you.

Dear Richard and Michael,

I am not a regular reader of MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS. Its mini-installment format may be suitable for some, but I prefer more than snippets when I sit down to read a story. However, the full-length blockbuster in issue 150 did catch my eye so I decided to give it a try.

Ann Nocenti's unusually well crafted story proves how powerful the comic reading experience can be. I held my breath all the way through. And Steve Lightle's art was nothing short of mesmerizing. Part two can't come soon enough.

Beautiful job. Thank you.

Steve Perram
2920 Meridian St.
Bellingham, WA
98225

Thanks for the kind words, Steve. MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS usually has four different stories, but you don't have to think of all of them as snippets, as most of the stories we run are multi-part adventures. Maybe you could save up a whole stack of issues and read them all at one time. And don't forget that each issue is a full thirty-two pages of reading.

Dear Richard and Michael,

I thought it'd be a good idea to write in about the two-part Typhoid Mary story in one shot. You guys were right that this story would raise some controversial issues. The fact that the majority of comic readers are male is certainly one reason for this. After all, Typhoid is a confident female character, unintimidated by men, which some readers might find threatening. However, I found this story to be nothing but superb.

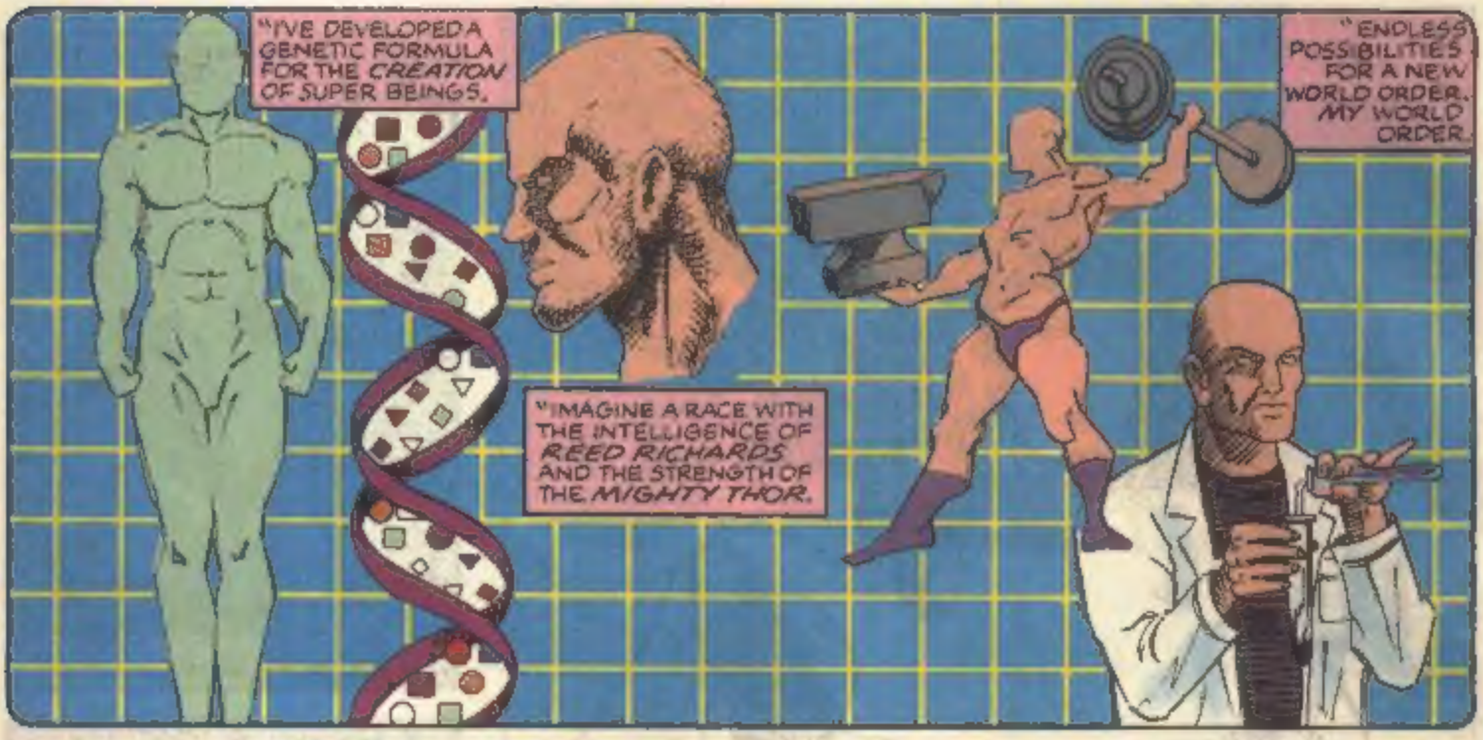
First of all Ann Nocenti wrote a fantastic script. I like how she concentrated on Typhoid and her other personas, leaving the other characters as catalysts for the events of the story. Ann also gets points for all the controversial issues she dealt with. The question of women's place in society is one I'm glad to see addressed in a serious fashion in comics. Mary's methods of dealing with abusive men was also a good idea to include, simply because it raises several important questions. Is it someone's right to obtain vengeance, or should they follow the law and bring their tormenters to justice? Are Mary's methods simply continuing the cycle of violence? While I find extreme violence to be distastefull have to admit that I found certain -

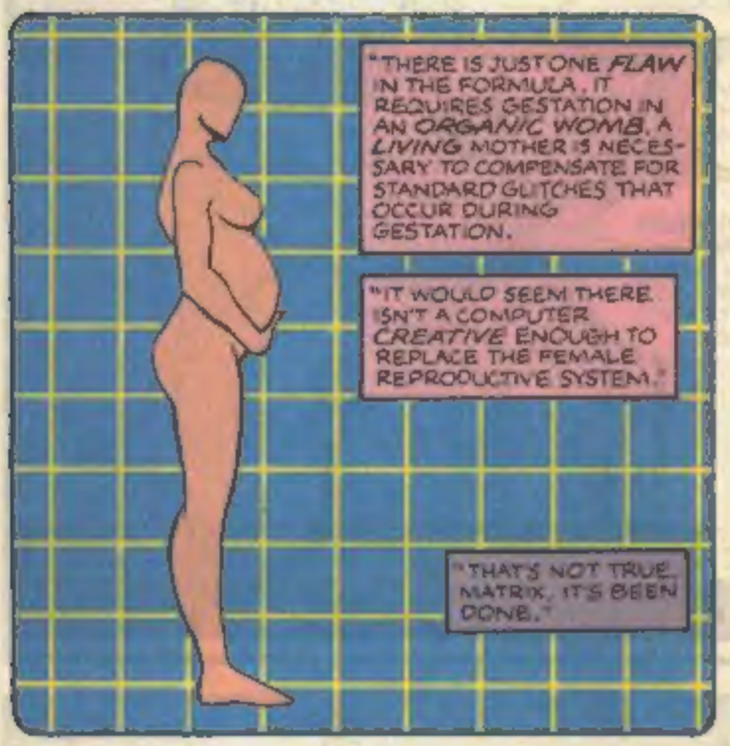
(Continued)

HER NEW METABOLISM IS SLIGHTLY FASTER. SHE SHOULD BE COMING OUT OF IT ABOUT NOW.
"PERHAPS WE SHOULD INCREASE THE DOSAGE?"
"NEGATIVE. ELECTROENCEPHALOGRAPH SHOWS ACTIVITY."
I KNOW YOU'RE AWAKE, KYMAERA.
PROBABLY GROGGY.
"KYMAERA/"
WHERE AM I? WHO ARE YOU?
WHERE YOU ARE SHALL REMAIN MY LITTLE SECRET. AS FOR WHO I AM, YOU MAY CALL ME...
...MOTHER MATRIX.
KYMAERA IN:
BABY TALK
A NEW WARRIORS SOLO/ PART TWO

OH GREAT! ANOTHER TWO BIT LOONEY TOON IN A COSTUME.
LIKE MY LIFE ISN'T COMPLICATED ENOUGH AS IT IS.
WHY'D YOU ATTACK ME? AND WHAT'S WITH THIS AIR HOSE?
I WOULDN'T REMOVE THAT HOSE IF I WERE YOU. YOU SEE, THE LIQUID YOU'RE IN...
"...IS NOT WATER."
"IT'S CALLED HYDRO-P AND IT'S NASTY."
I HEAR IT WORKS ON ATLANTEANS THE WAY OCEAN SALT WATER WORKS ON A THIRSTY HUMAN...
YOU CAN DRINK IT AND QUENCH YOUR THIRST FOR A SECOND BUT THEN YOU GET THIRSTIER AND THIRSTIER WITH EACH SIP UNTIL YOU DIE OF DEHYDRATION.
DOES THE ANALOGY WORK WELL, KYMAERA?
GO TO HADES, MATRIX!
PAINFUL, ISN'T IT? HYDRO-P WAS DESIGNED BY THE GOVERNMENT AFTER THE ATLANTEAN INVASION AS A MEANS OF CONTROL.
YOU MIGHT SAY IT'S A TYPE OF ANTI-WATER.

IF IT EXISTS, I'VE ALREADY EARNED MY TICKET.
WHY...
AM I DOING THIS? I NEED YOUR *BODY!* I NEED YOUR STAMINA, YOUR STRENGTH AND YOUR YOUTH.
"BUT MOST IMPORTANTLY--I NEED YOUR *WOMB*.
"I INTEND TO IMPREGNATE YOU."
MY FORTE IS *GENETICS*, THE MANIPULATION OF *DNA* AND *RNA* FOR DESIRED RESULTS.
IT GIVES NEW MEANING TO THE TERM *CUSTOM-MADE*.
CERTAIN *CHANGES* IN YOU WERE *BROUGHT* TO MY ATTENTION, I COULD USE THESE CHANGES TO MY ADVANTAGE.
YOU ARE AN INTEGRAL PART OF MY GREATEST EXPERIMENT.
ONE WHICH WILL HELP ME TO ACHIEVE DOMINANCE OVER GENETICS ON EARTH.
GENETIC *MANIPULATION* WILL BE TO THE *NEXT* CENTURY WHAT COMPUTERS WERE TO THIS ONE. I INTEND TO CONTROL THE SCIENCE WHICH WILL CONTROL THE WORLD.


"I'VE DEVELOPED A GENETIC FORMULA FOR THE CREATION OF SUPER BEINGS.
"IMAGINE A RACE WITH THE INTELLIGENCE OF REED RICHARDS AND THE STRENGTH OF THE MIGHTY THOR.
"ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES FOR A NEW WORLD ORDER. MY WORLD ORDER.


"THERE IS JUST ONE FLAW IN THE FORMULA. IT REQUIRES GESTATION IN AN ORGANIC WOMB. A LIVING MOTHER IS NECESSARY TO COMPENSATE FOR STANDARD GLITCHES THAT OCCUR DURING GESTATION.
"IT WOULD SEEM THERE ISN'T A COMPUTER CREATIVE ENOUGH TO REPLACE THE FEMALE REPRODUCTIVE SYSTEM."
"THAT'S NOT TRUE, MATRIX. IT'S BEEN DONE."

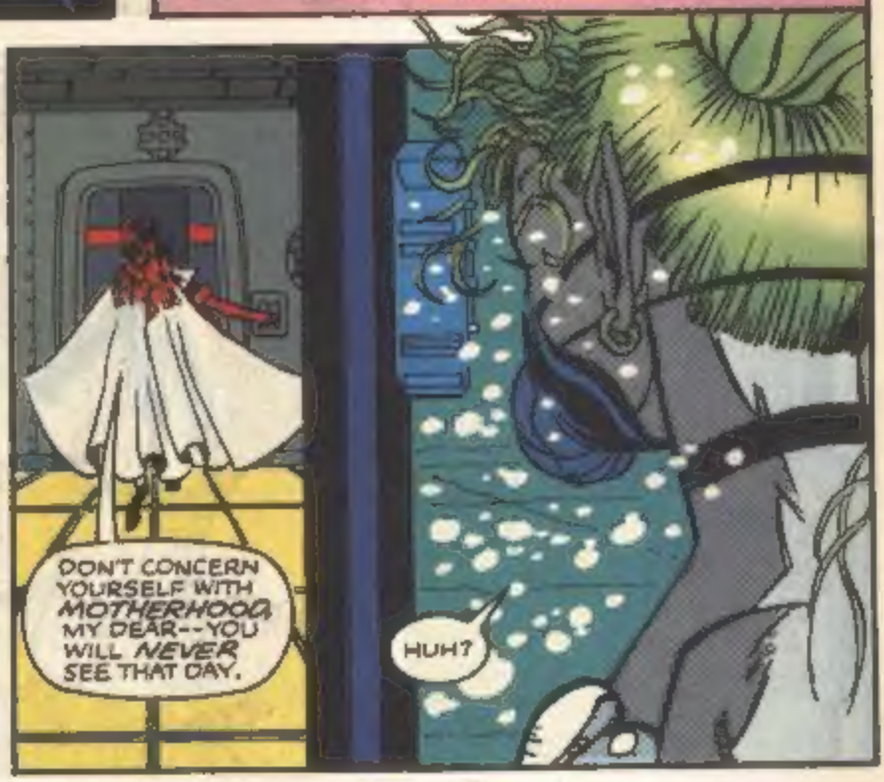
YES, IT'S BEEN DONE WITH CLONES. CLONING IS EASY. IT'S LIKE MAKING A XEROX-- A BLUEPRINT ALREADY EXISTS.
I'M TALKING ABOUT BUILDING FROM SCRATCH. WHAT I'M DOING HAS ONLY BEEN THEORIZED.
YEAH, BY HITLER AND THE THIRD REICH!

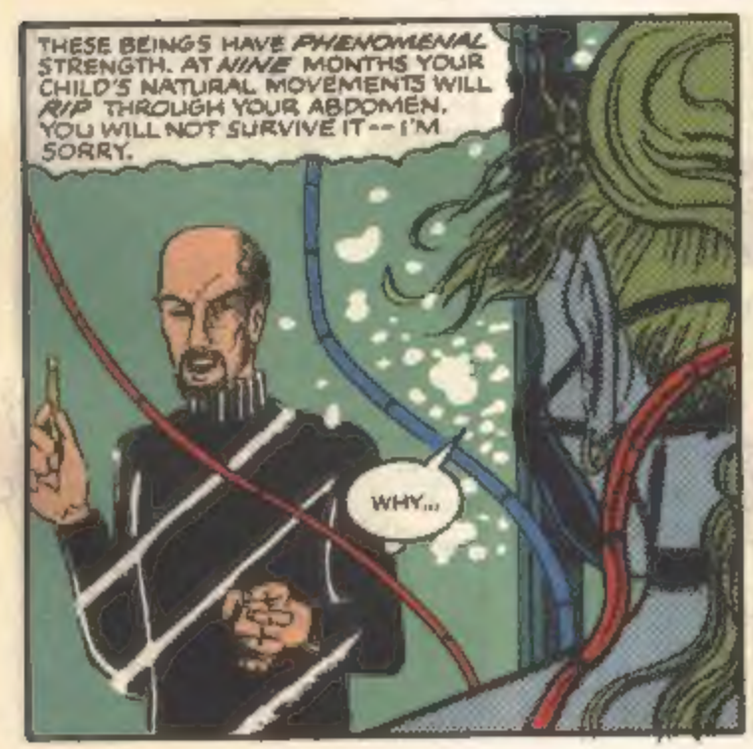
BY EVERYONE! WHY THE NEED TO CREATE THE FORMULA THAT MADE CAPTAIN AMERICA, WHEN THEY COULD HAVE BUILT HIM UP FROM A ZYGOTE...?
IN ANY EVENT-- WE RAN A SIMULATION, AND THE FETUSES BURST THEIR WAY THROUGH NORMAL MOTHERS AT FOUR MONTHS.

THERE ARE ONLY A HANDFUL OF WOMEN WHO COULD SURVIVE BREEDING THESE BEINGS.

MEGGAN
DAGGER
NAMORITA
ROGUE
SHE-HULK
STORM
MS. MARVEL
CAPTAIN MARVEL
PSYLOCKE
BUT THANKS TO YOUR NEW CONDITION, YOU MEET OPTIMUM GESTATION REQUIREMENTS. A RADICAL MUTATION OF YOUR MAGNITUDE HAS LEFT YOUR DNA STRUCTURE TEMPORARILY MALLEABLE.

LADY, YOUR MIND IS ONE WAVE SHORT OF A SHIPWRECK. I'M NOT ABOUT TO BECOME A TEEN MOTHER.


DON'T CONCERN YOURSELF WITH MOTHERHOOD, MY DEAR--YOU WILL NEVER SEE THAT DAY.
HUH?


THESE BEINGS HAVE PHENOMENAL STRENGTH. AT NINE MONTHS YOUR CHILD'S NATURAL MOVEMENTS WILL RIP THROUGH YOUR ABDOMEN. YOU WILL NOT SURVIVE IT -- I'M SORRY.
WHY...

...AND WHO IS SHE TO DO THIS?
...WHY ME...?
IT'S A RATHER LONG STORY, KYMAERA, BUT SINCE YOU HAVE TIME...

"MATRIX'S TRUE NAME IS BARBARA GRUBER. SHE WAS BORN IN EAST BERLIN DURING THE COLD WAR. WHEN SHE WAS SIX, HER FAMILY DEFECTED TO THE WEST AND HER MOTHER DIED SHORTLY AFTER.

"SHE WAS GIFTED WITH AN INCREDIBLE MIND AND SHUNNED NORMAL SOCIAL RELATIONS FOR HER STUDIES. HER PEERS THOUGHT HER TO BE A FREAK.

"SHE ATTENDED BERKELEY AND CHOSE BIO-GENETICS FOR HER GRADUATE STUDIES. LACK OF COMPASSION FOR HER CHARGES LED THE FACULTY TO DECLARE HER UNFIT FOR MEDICAL PRACTICE.

"THEY INSISTED SHE RESTRICT HER CAREER TO RESEARCH ONLY.

"WITH HER DOCTORATE IN BIO-ENGINEERING SHE WENT TO WORK AT A PRESTIGIOUS RESEARCH LAB.

"THERE SHE FOUND THAT THE *MEN* ABOVE HER WERE GAINING THE CREDIT AND REWARDS FOR HER WORK. PATENTS FROM HER RESEARCH NETTED THE COMPANY MILLIONS OF DOLLARS.

"WHEN SHE MENTIONED HER LACK OF RECOGNITION AND COMPENSATION SHE WAS REPRIMANDED. ON TOP OF THAT, NONE OF THE PROJECTS SHE WISHED TO CHARTER WERE EVER TAKEN SERIOUSLY.

"AFTER TEN YEARS OF ABUSE FROM THOSE SHE CONSIDERED INTELLECTUAL INFERIORS, SHE DECIDED SHE'D HAD ENOUGH. GRUBER EMBEZZLED MILLIONS IN COMPANY ASSETS AND DROPPED OFF THE FACE OF THE EARTH.

"WHAT EMERGED WAS MATRIX. VERY BITTER, VERY ANGRY WITH PLANS OF DOMINATION IN THE FIELD OF GENETICS. FEW SUSPECT HOW MUCH INTEREST SHE CONTROLS IN THAT FIELD AROUND THE WORLD.

"SHE USED THE STOLEN MONEY TO SET UP HER BASES OF OPERATION AND BUY HER INFLUENCES IN VARIOUS LABORATORIES."

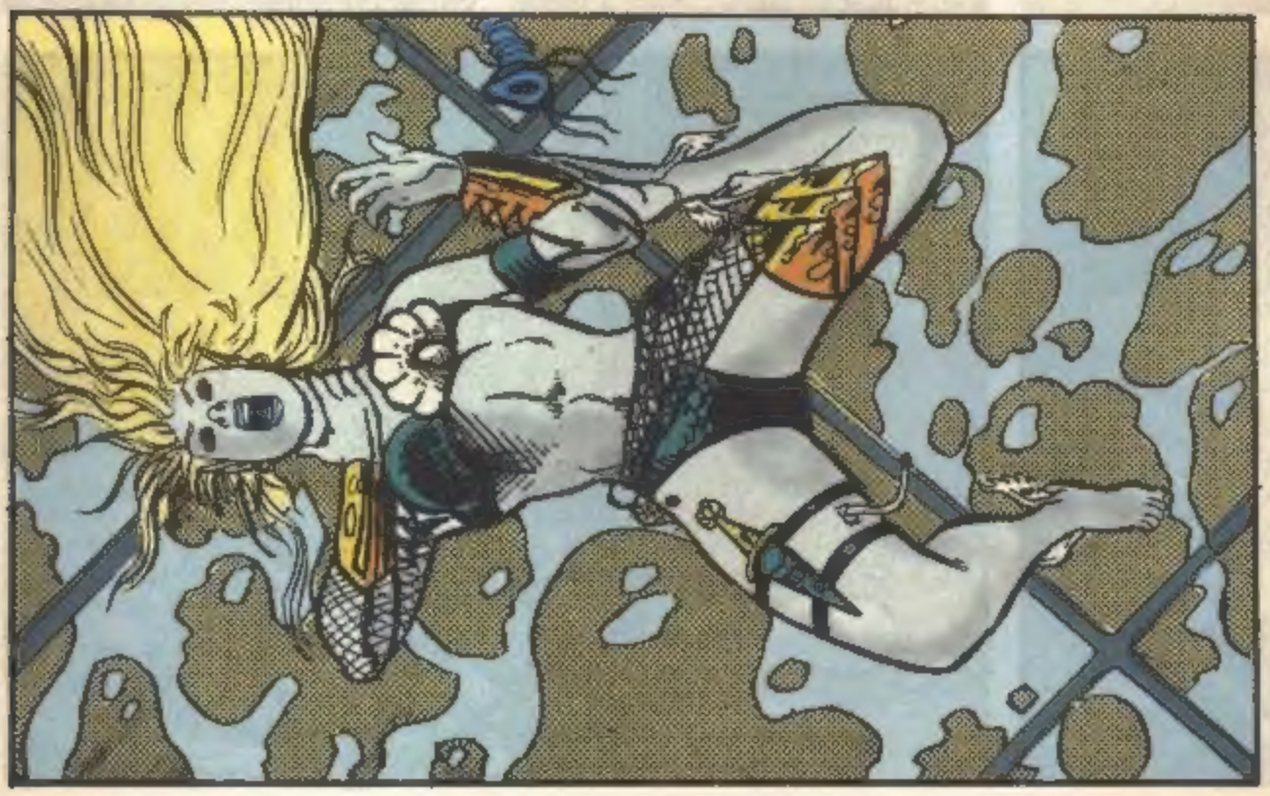
THE *LESSON* HERE IS-- NEVER ANGER A GENIUS.

WHY DOES SHE NEED *SUPER SOLDIERS*?

WHERE WILL IT *END*, ZANDROFF?

SHE *CAN* MAKE HERSELF THE MOST POWERFUL PERSON ON EARTH. PEOPLE LIKE HER HAVE MANY ENEMIES... THEY NEED PERSONAL ARMIES.

I'M GOING FOR A CUP OF COFFEE. NOW DON'T LEAVE THE TANK OR YOU'LL *DIE* OF *DEHYDRATION*-- NOT THAT YOU'RE STRONG ENOUGH TO BREAK THE GLASS IN YOUR WEAKENED STATE.
I'LL DIE ANYWAY, YOU *MORON*, IF I DON'T ESCAPE.
THERE'S GOT TO BE AN OPENING SOME--
"BINGO."
THESE GLASS PANELS SLIDE UP BETWEEN THESE METAL RAILINGS.
THIS TANTALUS STUFF MAY KEEP ME *WEAK*, BUT I THINK I'VE GOT ENOUGH STRENGTH TO *UNSCREW* THESE BOLTS BY HAND.
FSSS
LATER...
DONE.
NOW I POP OUT THE SCREWS, AND...
EEEE
COME ON! YOU GOTTA GIVE.
GOT IT!



CONTINUES
NEXT ISSUE

DURING THE DARKEST HOURS OF WORLD WAR TWO ONLY ONE HERO WAS BRAVE ENOUGH, OR FOOLISH ENOUGH, TO SET CAMP BEHIND ENEMY LINES'
DER ZERSTÖRER in EINS NACHT
DER ZERSTORER HAD PLANNED A NIGHT OF STEALTH AND SUBTLE SABOTAGE.
BUT A SUDDEN CONFLAGRATION OF LIGHTS AND ANTI-AIRCRAFT FIRE REMINDS HIM THAT IN THE FATHERLAND THINGS DON'T ALWAYS GO AS PLANNED

ZU IHREN LINKEN
WAS.?
EIN BRITISCH BOMBER!
SIE HABEN NICHT DIE GERINGSTE AUSSICHT!
VERDAMMT RAZIS! LASSEN SIE IHNEN IN RUHE!
NE'N!
HILFE!

LEGEN SIE MICH HINUNTER!
WIE SIE WOLLEN!
KESH
WAS IST DAS?
DORT DRUBEN!
DER ZERSTÖRER!

HA
HA
HA
PCHOW
PC
ERHALT!
MITKOMMEN RAZIS!
FOLGEN SIE MIR!
TAK
TEK
TEK
TEK
TEK
WEN KÖNNEN!
TING
ICH BIN HIER!
TEK
TEK
TEK
TEK
TEK
TEK
TEK
MEHR L CHT?

GUT!
TEK
TEK
TEK
HIER ENTLANG!
GEHEN SIE GERADEAUS
IHN TÖTEN!
PERFEKT!
TEK
TEK
TEK
TEK

MEANWHILE, IN THE SKIES ABOVE...
SKIP, GET YOURSELF A BUTCHERS AT THIS..
WHAT IS IT, CHALKERS?
UNION Jacqui
IT'S THE JERRIES, SKIP...
THEY'VE LIT UP THE TARGET SIGHT!
WELL, I SAY...
"... THAT'S JOLLY WELL NICE OF THEM, WOT?

KOMMEN SIE HER!
JA... HALTEN SIE STILL...
WAS?
GOTT IN HIMMEL!
"OKAY AXIS, HERE WE COME!"

KACHOW!
RRIP
GOOD JOB, LADS!
KEEP 'EM FLYING!
DAS ENDE!

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS
MIDNIGHT SONS
VENGEANCE THE DESTROYER
SHANG-CHI
NEW WARRIORS
DIRECT EDITION
REGGIE JONES

- satisfaction in seeing those wife beaters being taught a lesson. The character of Doctor Hunt was also well done. Instead of having him as a one-dimensional womanizer, Ann included a scene where Hunt pondered the morality of his actions. While nothing came of his questioning of his ethics, it still added an element of realism to the not-so-good-doctor. Finally, we have the character of Jessie, who prompts some interesting questions concerning sexuality.

As for the art, it was very good. Steve Lightle did a wondrous job on the first half of the story. Having a relative newcomer follow up an act like Steve's could be quite daunting, but Fred Harper definitely passed the test in my book. I was disappointed Steve wouldn't be finishing up the story, but Fred more than made up for this.

In conclusion, "Bloody Mary" was a great story, leaving the reader to consider some tough issues. This was some of the best material I've ever seen in these pages, and that's saying something, considering the other excellent stories that have appeared in MCP As I've said before, and hope to keep saying in the future, keep up the good work, guys, and I'll see you next issue.

Ben Herman
45 Runyon Place
Scarsdale, NY
10583

The creative teams that worked on both of the "Bloody Mary" issues deserve high praise for their efforts. The work they put into those issues will serve to stand as a measuring point for future work for both them and their fellow creators. We were impressed with the way Ann brought to light so many different problems that plague modern society, and how she made our characters wrestle with these problems, each in their own way. Both Steve and Fred will be in the pages of MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS in the future and we think that you will continue to see these artists grow.

NEXT ISSUE;

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS

RICHARD ASHFORD EDITOR
MICHAEL KRAIGER ASSISTANT EDITOR
RALPH MACCHIO GROUP EDITOR
TOM DEFALCO EDITOR IN CHIEF

COVER BY REGGIE JONES

VENGEANCE

PART 1 OF 3
"ALTERED SPIRITS"

WRITER .....CHRIS COOPER
BREAKDOWNS .....REGGIE JONES
FINISHES .....FRED HARPER
LETTERS .....UL HIGGINS
COLORS .....JOE ANDREANI

As Detective Badilino wonders if the world wouldn't be better off without Ghost Rider, someone seeks the Ghost Rider's most terrifying power!

SHANG CHI
MASTER OF MARTIAL ARTS

PART 1 OF 3
"THE GAUNTLET"

WRITER ..... KARL BOLLERS
PENCILS .....CARY NORD
INKS .....BAMBOS GEORGIO
LETTERS .. ..UL HIGGINS
COLORS .....KARL BOLLERS

Surrounded by professional killers in the streets of Hong Kong, the silent Master of the Martia Arts finds that he must survive "the gauntlet"!

FROM RICHARD AND MICHAEL

Most issues we talk about what's coming up in MCP. This issue we'd like to tell you about another one of the books that we edit, and that you may not be aware of. This book will be starting with issue one in May. This book stars a young protagonist with no super powers, who must face daunting odds. This book features some of the most beautiful and action-filled art to ever cross our desks! This book has fantastic stories and heroic drama on a epic-making scale. This book is CONAN THE ADVENTURER! Featuring Robert E. Howard's greatest fantasy creation. All new stories by Roy Thomas, and eye-dazzling art by Rafe Kayanan. Look for it in the stores and on the news stand, it'll mesmerize you.

Plugging away
Richard and Michael

BROOKLYN, NEW YORK
ALTERED SPIRITS
VENGEANCE
OH GOD PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE--
KRAKOOM
--WHATEVER THIS THING IS THAT'S CHASING ME, DON'T LET IT--
--GET ME!

WHY? WHY ARE YOU AFTER ME?! I HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING!
I--I'VE NEVER USED MY MUTANT POWER AS A WEAPON BEFORE--
KOOM
--BUT I'LL DEFEND MYSELF IF I HAVE TO!
NOW GO AWAY! LEAVE ME ALONE, BEFORE I--
YOU HURT DA BOSS.
NOW I'M GONNA HAVE TA HURT YOOZ
SLAM
ANOTHER ONE? WHERE'D HE COME FROM?!?
UHNF!

CAN'T FOCUS ENOUGH TO USE ELECTRICAL POWERS...
YOU HATE MUTANTS SO MUCH GO AHEAD AND KILL ME THEN!
HATE YOU? KILL YOU?? RELAX, FELLA..
I'M JUST GONNA BORROW YOUR POWERS TO SEE IF MY NEW ABILITY TRANSFERENCE MECHANISMS WORK NOTHING PERSONAL.
ZZAAAK
WHO ARE YOU?
I'M JUST AN ORDINARY HUMAN WITH A TALENT FOR INVENTION
A HUMAN WHO'S SEEN AN ABUSE OF POWER,
I'M GOING TO TAKE THAT POWER TO THE STREETS--
--ONCE I'VE STOLEN THE MOST TERRIFYING POWER OF ALL--
SHLAKOW
--GHOST RIDER'S!

NOT FAR AWAY, AT MERCY HOSPITAL.
I DON'T GET YOU AT ALL, BADLINO.
I MEAN, NOT THAT I'M NOT GRATEFUL FOR YOUR CONCERN.
BUT WHAT MAKES ME SO SPECIAL THAT I GET CONSTANT VISITS FROM THE NYPD'S MOST NOTORIOUS REBEL? WE'VE NEVER MET BEFORE
AH, BUT YOU DID MEET ME AS VENGEANCE, LT. TAYLOR..
WHEN I NEARLY BOTCHED THE JOB OF PROTECTING YOU* SO SUE ME IF I FEEL A LITTLE RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR WELL-BEING
* IN THE LAST FEW ISSUES BY RICHARD
YEAH. THAT'S WHAT I FEEL NOTHING MORE... IS THERE?
LOOK, TAYLOR--REBECCA--YOU'RE A HIGHLY SKILLED COMBATANT WITH A DISTINGUISHED RECORD. I WANT TO MAKE SURE THE FORCE DOESN'T LOSE YOU
S'FUNNY--THAT'S ALMOST EXACTLY WHAT GHOST RIDER SAID.
FOR A GUY WHO HUNTS GHOST RIDER DOWN YOU SURE TALK AN AWFUL LOT LIKE HIM
THE MEDICATION'S KNOCKED HER OUT AGAIN
SURE, I TALK LIKE GHOST RIDER--BECAUSE I'VE BECOME HIM, THE VERY THING I ONCE HATED
BUT TO WHAT END? I BARELY SAVED YOU, I RUINED THE LIFE OF A TEENAGER I NEVER EVEN KNEW..*
* IN ISSUE #149. BY RICHARD
MAYBE THE WORLD'S BETTER OFF WITHOUT VENGEANCE.

AW, WHO'M I KIDDING? THERE'S NO TURNING BACK NOW--
UUNGH...
HEAD.. SUDDENLY POUNDING ..WHERE DID THIS MIGRAINE COME FR--
NO-- WHERE IS HE TAKING ME?! I CAN FEEL IT PULLING ME, LIKE A MAGNET!
WHILE IN BROOKLYN'S PROSPECT PARK--
I THINK IT'S WORKING, GARGANTUA! BY SIMULATING THE RESIDUAL OCCULT ENERGY RESONANCES SCANNED AT SITES OF RECENT GHOST RIDER ACTIVITY--
UH. .RIGHT, BOSS-- BUT CAN YOU BE SURE THE HOMING BEACON'S WORKING?
IS THIS DR STRANGE'S DOING? IF HE'S MEDDLING AGAIN, TRYING TO USE ME...
WHOEVER YOU ARE-- YOU JUST REELED IN MORE THAN YOU BARGAINED FOR!
VROOOM
OH, I'D SAY IT'S A PRETTY SAFE BET, WOULDN'T YOU?

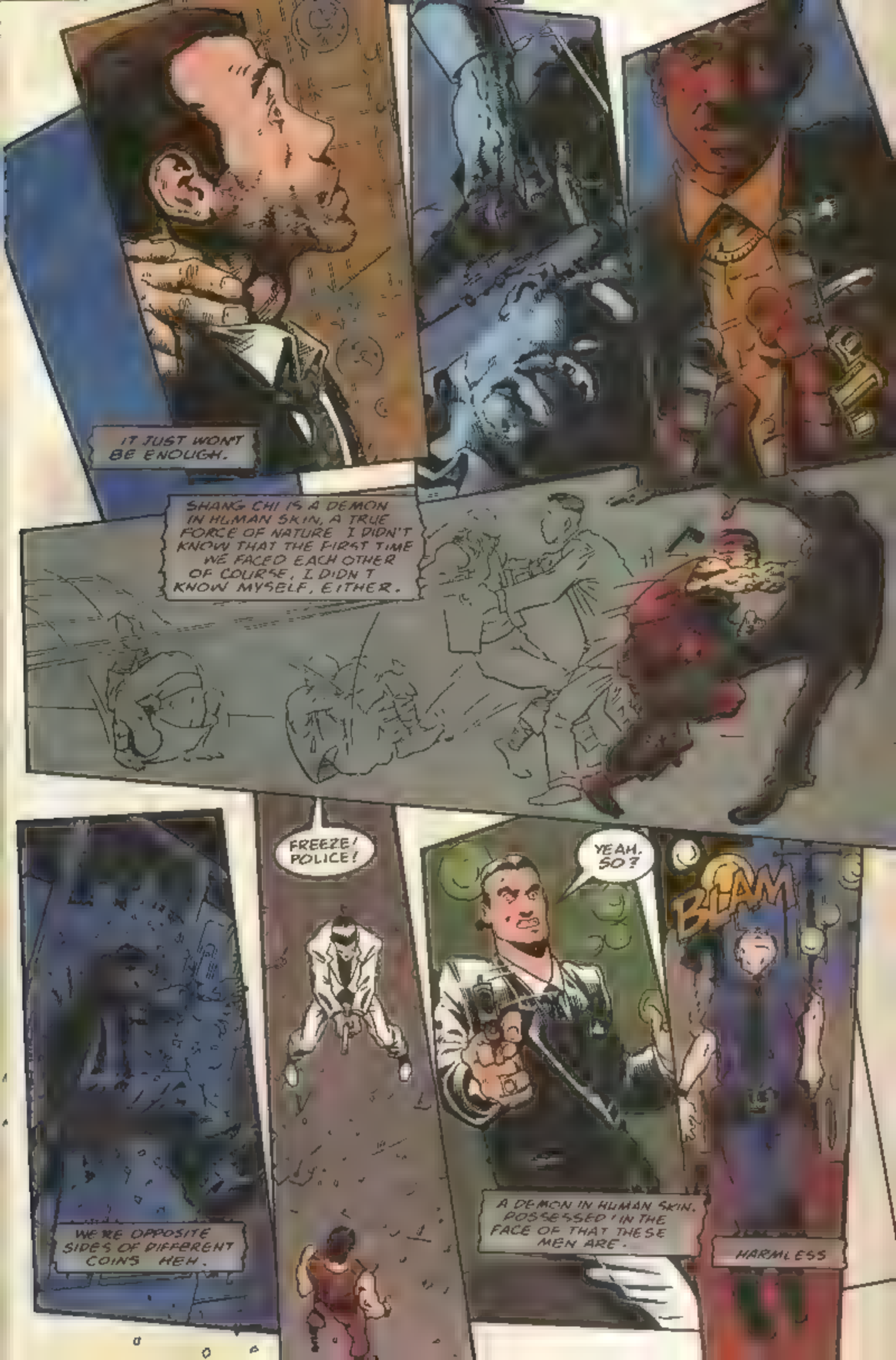
WHOUNF!
AWWRRRIIIGHT! I FINALLY GET TO GO TOE-TO-TOE WITH THE FLAMIN' SKULL!
SNAP
HEY, BOSS--THIS GUY AIN'T SO TOUGH! WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL?
I MEAN, JUST 'CAUSE HE THROWS AROUND A LOT OF ATTITUDE AND DRESSES HEAVY METAL--
YOU CLOWNS HAVE GOT TO BE KIDDING!
LOOK, I'D LOVE A POINTLESS BATTLE WITH A PAIR OF NO-NAME LOSERS--
--BUT I HAVEN'T GOT THE TIME TODAY. MAYBE IN A MONTH OR SO
...WHEN YOUR [redacted] HEALS.
YIIEEAARGHK!
UUUUUNGH!
KRAK
WHAT YOU D D TO GARGANTUA'S HAND--THAT WASN'T VERY NICE.

BUT HE DID PROVIDE THE NECESSARY DIVERSION WHILE I PREPARED THE TRANSFERENCE DEVICES
-UM
[illegible]ENCE DEVICES?! IF SHE MEANS WHATEVER SHE JUST ZAPPED ME WITH--
--THOSE BOLTS ARE ACTUALLY PRETTY TAME BUT TOGETHER WITH HER MR MI-GRAINE MACHINE THEY'VE LEFT MY HEAD SPINNING.
IT'LL TAKE A SECOND FOR ME TO GET MY EQUILIBRI--
WHOA I'VE NEVER FELT ANYTHING LIKE...
WHAT THE DEVIL-?!
I'M TRANSFORMING!
YES! IT'S WORKED!! [illegible] IT!!!

VENGEANCE IS NO MORE! LET A NEW SPIRIT HAUNT THE WORLD-- A NIGHTMARE--
--A PHANTOME!
TO BE CONTINUED!

LET ME BEGIN WITH AN APOLOGY, MY DEAR I'M SORRY IT'S COME TO THIS I DIDN'T MEAN TO FORCE YOU HERE AGAINST YOUR WILL. I AM, OF COURSE, A GENTLEMAN --
THE QUEEN'S PIER. THE OLD WAREHOUSE..
BUT I KNEW THAT IF I TOOK YOU, POSSESSED YOU, HE'D HAVE NO CHOICE. HE'D FOLLOW. MY OLDEST ENEMY...
SHANG-CHI
MARTIAL ARTS
OUTLAW
WOULD HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO RUN..
THE GAUNTLET
--THAT IS, IF YOU CAN MAKE IT THERE IN ONE PIECE.

EVE NOW MY HIRED GUNMEN HAVE HIM SURROUNDED IN LAN KWAI FONG DISTRICT THEIR OBJECTIVE IS MY OWN ...
TO CRUSH HIM TO SQUEEZE EVERY LAST DROP OF LIFE FROM HIM 'TIL HE'S NOTHING SORRY TO INVOLVE YOU SO
BUT THERE THEY'RE I REALIZED WHAT THE MASTER CHERISHES MOST EVEN IN THE FACE OF DEATH, HE'D RISK ALL FOR YOU BASED ON THE SILLIEST OF NOTIONS--LOVE
HE'LL FIND YOU. HE THINKS I KNOW HIM AND HOW HE THINKS--STRUCTURED BUT HE'S WRONG. THESE MEN ARE TRAINED PROFESSIONALS, OF COURSE.
THERE'RE GOOD MEN [illegible] THERE ARE TWO KINDS OF PEOPLE IN THIS WORLD, MY DEAR THOSE WHO KILL WOMEN AND CHILDREN FOR MONEY AND THOSE WHO DON'T FOR SPORT
THESE MEN ARE THE LATTER AND I'VE PAID THEM DOUBLE WHAT ANYONE ELSE WOULD.
PLEASE
BUT SOMEHOW


IT JUST WONT BE ENOUGH.
SHANG CHI IS A DEMON IN HUMAN SKIN, A TRUE FORCE OF NATURE I DIDN'T KNOW THAT THE FIRST TIME WE FACED EACH OTHER OF COURSE, I DIDN T KNOW MYSELF, EITHER.
FREEZE! POLICE!
YEAH. SO?
BLAM
WE'RE OPPOSITE SIDES OF DIFFERENT COINS HEH.
A DEMON IN HUMAN SKIN. POSSESSED! IN THE FACE OF THAT THESE MEN ARE.
HARMLESS

OF COURSE I ALREADY KNEW THAT
PLEASE.
PATIENCE, MS WI. I REALIZE YOU'VE FINALLY FOUND YOUR VOICE AFTER THE SEVERE BEATING I HAD TO INFLICT UPON YOU, BUT PLEASE ALLOW ME TO COMPLETE MY TRAIN OF THOUGHT.
I DON'T WANT THE MASTER DEAD JUST YET. I WANT HIM TO KNOW WHO IT IS THAT HAS BEATEN HIM. WHO IT IS THAT IS TWO STEPS AHEAD THIS TIME.
THOSE MEN WERE A DIVERSION. I NEED THEM TO ATTRACT THE ATTENTION OF THE AUTHORITIES.
TO FURTHER MY GOAL AND TO PROVE THE CORRUPTIBILITY OF LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENTS, I HAVE PAID A SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNT OF CASH TO A HIGH-RANKING POLICE OFFICIAL HERE IN HONG KONG TO ENSURE YOUR LOVER'S DEATH.
HALT!
WAIT! DON'T SHOOT! HE'S CARRYING A WOUNDED COP!
YEAH. BUT WHERE TO?
CALL THE DEPARTMENT...

WE'RE REQUESTING BACK-UP.
WHO ARE YOU?
DON'T ASK ME THAT. DO YOU REALLY WANT TO BE INVOLVED IN THIS MESS, MS. WU? IT'S BETTER THAT YOU NOT BE. IT'S NONE OF YOUR AFFAIR.
SUFFICE TO SAY, I AM A MAN WITH A GUTTED-OUT SOUL. MUCH LIKE OUR CURRENT SURROUNDINGS WOULDN'T YOU SAY? MIND IF I SMOKE?
NO.
WOULD YOU CARE FOR ONE? IT'S GOOD FOR A GUTTED-OUT SOUL OR IF YOU'RE JUST PLAIN OL' GUTTED. HEH.
I'VE WATCHED YOU FOR A WHILE NOW. HE REALLY THOUGHT I WAS DEAD. BUT I SURVIVED. SURVIVED TO HEAL AND PLAN AND GROW SMART AND MORE BITTER.
NOW YOU SETTLED HERE IN HONG KONG... SEEKING PEACE AFTER ALL THESE YEARS?
POLICE
POLICE
PLEASE... SHANG -- HE'S --
AFTER DESTROYING MY LIFE, HE WANTS PEACE?
HE'S NOT THE MAN YOU KNEW. YOU MUST LET ME GO.
PEACE? NO SHOT AT THAT, MY DEAR.
DO NOT LET HIM COME HERE. YOU'RE NOT AWARE OF HIS CAPABILITIES.
THAT'S EXACTLY WHY I'M TESTING THEM.

KNOWING THINE ENEMY IS VERY EFFECTIVE IN THE HEALING PROCESS, MS. WU. I READ THAT SOMEWHERE ON A FORTUNE-COOKIE. I KNOW SHANG CHI. I FEEL BETTER ALREADY.
I KNOW THAT HE'S THE TYPE WHO COULDN'T CONTINUE ON THE DEADLY ROUTE I'VE LAID OUT IF THE LIFE OF AN INNOCENT WERE AT STAKE.
EVEN IF THAT MEANS PRECIOUS MINUTES OFF THE ALLOTED TIME I'VE GIVEN HIM TO FIND US. HE WOULD RISK YOUR LIFE TO SAVE THAT OF ANOTHER. MOST COMPLEX.
HE...
HE SAVED MY LIFE...
NOW ME. I'M A DIFFERENT TYPE ACTULLY. I'D TAKE THE LIFE OF ANYONE STUPID ENOUGH TO GET IN MY WAY. AND WHY NOT? WERE ALL EXPENDABLE. NO?

"THE QUEEN'S PIER. IF YOU CAN MAKE IT." THAT'S WHAT I TOLD THE ONE WITH THE TOOTHPICK TO SAY. THAT'S WHAT I WANT THE MASTER TO HEAR OVER AND OVER AS HE GOES THERE.
I WANT HIM TO THINK-- WHY IS THIS HAPPENING? WHY CAN'T I FIND PEACE? WHY HAVE THEY TAKEN LEIKO? WHO'S BEHIND THIS? MY ENEMIES IN THE SI-FAN? MIDNIGHT?
MY DEAD FATHER'S GHOST? WHY AM I SO WEAK AND STUPID? I'M SO SORRY THAT YOU HAD TO BE A PART OF THIS, MS. WU.
WHAT IS THE POINT IN CONTINUOUSLY APOLOGIZING TO ME FOR THE CRIMES AGAINST SHANG? I DO NOT UNDERSTAND.
DO YOU UNDERSTAND THIS? DO YOU KNOW WHY I'VE BOUND YOU SO? DO YOU KNOW WHAT THIS IS? IT'S A CATTLE-PROD. IT'S QUITE PAINFUL. IT CAN FILL YOU WITH PAIN...
PLEASE, YOU'RE CONFUSED--
SO SORRY, MS. WU.

NOOO
TO BE CONTINUED